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GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP (SV)
IP DOCKETING
2450 COLORADO AVENUE
SUITE 400E
SANTA MONICA, CA 90404

EXAMINER

MILORD, MARCEAU

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2618

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shiotsu et al (US Patent No 6993358 B2).

Regarding claims 1-3, Shiotsu et al discloses an apparatus (figs. 1-4) comprising: a surface including a set of contact points, the surface to provide a medium to transmit data

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between a first device (1 of fig. 1) in contact with one or more contact points of the surface (col. 32- col. 5, line 21; col. 6, lines 31-63; col. 10, lines 7-55), and a second device (3 or 4 of fig. 1) in contact with one or more contact points of the surface (col. 8, lines 34-61; col. 9, lines 27-61; col. 12, lines 26-62).

Regarding claim 4, Shiotsu et al discloses an apparatus (figs. 1-4) comprising: a surface including a set of contact points, wherein the surface is to provide a medium to transmit data between the device and a third device separated from the surface (col. 8, line 41- col. 9, line 10).

Regarding claim 5, Shiotsu et al discloses an apparatus (figs. 1-4) comprising: a surface including a set of contact points, wherein the surface is to provide a medium to transmit data between the third device separated from the surface and a fourth device separated from the surface (col. 9, lines 26-61).

Regarding claim 6, Shiotsu et al discloses an apparatus (figs. 1-4) comprising: a surface including a set of contact points, wherein the surface is to provide a power supply to at least one of the first and second devices via the contact points (col. 7, lines 1-34).

Regarding claim 7, Shiotsu et al discloses an apparatus (figs. 1-4) comprising: a surface including a set of contact points, wherein the one of first, second, and third devices is one of a notebook computer, a cell phone, and a personal digital assistant (col. 6, lines 14-44).

Regarding claim 8, Shiotsu et al discloses an apparatus (figs. 1-4) comprising: a surface including a set of contact points, wherein the first device includes a microcontroller, a safety switch mechanism, a power feed coupled to the safety switch mechanism, and contact points (col. 6, lines 10-63).

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Regarding claim 9, Shiotsu et al discloses an apparatus (figs. 1-4) comprising: a surface including a set of contact points, wherein the safety switch mechanism includes a matrix of transistors (col. 7, lines 2-56).

Regarding claim 10, Shiotsu et al discloses an apparatus (figs. 1-4) comprising: a surface including a set of contact points, wherein the surface includes a switch matrix, a set of switch contacts, from which at a first pair connects to the first device, and a second pair connects to the second device, a microcontroller to request a power supply deliver an identified voltage and current via switch matrix to at least one of the first and second set of contacts (col. 7, lines 2-56; col. 8, lines 8-40)

Regarding claim 11, Shiotsu et al discloses an apparatus (figs. 1-4) comprising: a surface including a set of contact points, wherein the first device is to transmit, via the surface, a key to the second device to have the first and second device transmit additional data between the first and second devices via a separate wireless protocol (col. 14, lines 26-60).

Regarding claim 12, Shiotsu et al discloses an apparatus (figs. 1-4) comprising: a surface including a set of contact points, wherein the separate wireless protocol is one of a group wireless communication protocol standards comprising of 802.11 d protocol, 802.11 a protocol 802.11 l protocol, or Bluetooth (col. 14, lines 25-45; col. 19, lines 25-55).

Regarding claim 13, Shiotsu et al discloses an apparatus (figs. 1-4) comprising: a surface including a set of contact points, wherein at least one of the first, second and third devices includes an Ethernet controller, a media access control controller, and a low-pass/high-pass switch filter (col. 6, lines 34-44; col. 19, lines 37-67).

Regarding claim 14, Shiotsu et al discloses an apparatus (figs. 1-4) comprising: a surface including a set of contact points, wherein at least one of the first, second and third devices is a display device, and the surface is to provide a medium to transmit data to the display to be displayed (col. 6, lines 7-25; col. 7, lines 20-34).

Regarding claim 15, Shiotsu et al discloses an apparatus (figs. 1-4) comprising: a surface including a set of contact points, wherein at least one of the first, second and third devices is a display device, and the surface is to provide a medium to transmit video to the display to be displayed (col. 6, lines 7-25; col. 7, lines 20-34).

Regarding claim 16, Shiotsu et al discloses an apparatus (figs. 1-4) comprising: a surface including a set of contact points, wherein the surface includes a video capture to receive an analog input and convert the analog signal to digital to be displayed (col. 6, lines 7-25; col. 7, lines 20-34).

Regarding claim 17, Shiotsu et al discloses an apparatus (figs. 1-4) comprising: a surface including a set of contact points, wherein the surface further includes a Base System-On-Chip to interface between the video capture, a video buffer, and a controller of the surface (col. 15, lines 4-36).

Regarding claim 18, Shiotsu et al discloses an apparatus (figs. 1-4) comprising: a surface including a set of contact points, wherein the controller of the surface is an 802.11 communication protocol controller (col. 14, lines 25-45; col. 19, lines 25-55).

Regarding claim 19, Shiotsu et al discloses an apparatus (figs. 1-4) comprising: a surface including a set of contact points, wherein the controller of the surface includes a radio frequency transceiver (col. 4, lines 45-63; col. 6, lines 7-25).

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Regarding claim 20, Shiotsu et al discloses an apparatus (figs. 1-4) comprising: a surface including a set of contact points, wherein the surface provides an Internet connection to at least one of the first, second and third devices (col. 14, lines 29-60; col. 19, lines 25-50).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marceau Milord whose telephone number is 571-272-7853. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew D. Anderson can be reached on 571-272-4177. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MARCEAU MILORD


MARCEAU MILORD
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Marceau Milord

Primary Examiner

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